

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 15399 161027Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05 ACDA-05 ERDA-05

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R 160940Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1779

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 15399

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, ID

SUBJ: INDONESIAN VIEWS ON ASEAN

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS TODAY BRIG GEN NOERMANLI AMAN, DEPUTY GOI SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ASEAN, REVIEWED PROGRESS OF PREPARATIONS FOR ASEAN SUMMIT AS SEEN FROM INDONESIAN POINT OF VIEW. NOERMANLI SAID PRESENT PLANS WERE FOR SUMMIT TO CONVENE IN MID-TO LATE FEBRUARY, FOLLOWING FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY IN THAILAND. INTENSIVE ROUND OF PREPARATORY MEETINGS, WHICH BEGAN WITH SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING (SOM) NOVEMBER 11-14 IN KUALA LUMPUR WOULD CONTINUE. NOERMANLI SAID THAT WORKING LEVEL GROUP FROM ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES WAS MEETING NOW IN JAKARTA AND THAT FURTHER SOM WOULD BE HELD IN MANILA JANUARY 9-10.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 15399 161027Z

2. NOERMANLI SAID GOI BELIEVED MAIN BENEFIT OF SUMMIT

WOULD BE TO BRING ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TOGETHER FOR JOINT DISCUSSIONS FOR FIRST TIME. EVEN IF NO CONCRETE AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED AT SUMMIT, MEETING WOULD SYMBOLIZE IMPORTANCE WHICH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ATTACHED TO ASEAN AND WOULD HELP REDUCE INERTIA AND NATIONAL JEALOUSIES IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY BUREAUCRACIES THAT SLOWED ASEAN COOPERATION AT WORKING LEVEL. ACCORDING TO NOERMANLI, NO OBSERVERS FROM NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD BE INVITED TO SUMMIT.

3. RE PROPOSED TREATY OF AMITY AND COOPERATION, NOERMANLI THOUGHT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE FORMALLY CONCLUDED AT SUMMIT MEETING, THOUGH SIGNATURE WOULD LIKELY BE BY FOREIGN MINISTERS RATHER THAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

4. NOERMANLI SAID INDONESIAN VIEW WAS THAT ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZPFM) COULD BE IMPLEMENTED ONLY WHEN INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS WERE RIPE FOR IT. THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AT PRESENT, AND ALTHOUGH GOI CONTINUED TO SUPPORT CONCEPT IN PRINCIPLE, IT SAW LITTLE PROSPECT FOR ACTION ON ZPFN IN NEA FUTURE. IDEA OF SEEKING GREAT POWER GUARANTEES FOR ZONE HAD BEEN LARGELY ABANDONED, AND GOI SAW LITTLE POINT IN SEEKING UN RESOLUTION ENDORSING ZONE AT THIS TIME, AS HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY PHILIPPINES.

5. NOERMANLI CONFIRMED GOI'S CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION. NOTING THAT INTRA-ASEAN TRADE WAS RELATIVELY SMALL, HE SAID THAT GOI THOUGHT PROPOSAL FOR ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA WAS OVERAMBITIOUS AND LIKewise HAD DOUBTS ABOUT ELABORATE SCHEMES FOR ALLOCATION OF INDUSTRIES AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY DEFENSE RELATED INDUSTRIES. GOI NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD (BAPPENAS) THOUGHT ASEAN SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON WELL DEFINED, EASILY MANAGEABLE PROJECTS THAT WOULD YIELD EARLY CONCRETE RESULTS. SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENTLY, IN VIEW OF HIS EARLIER RMARKS ON INDUSTRIAL ALLOCATION, HE SUGGESTED AS EXAMPLE OF APPROACH FAVORED BY GOI THT ASEAN SHULD IDENTIFY SPECIFIC MANUFACTURING PLANTS NEEDED IN ASEAN AREA, AGREE TO LOCATE INDIVIDUAL PLANTS IN GIVEN COUNTRIES, AND ASSURE THT EACH WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ASEAN-WIDE MARKET.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 JAKARTA 15399 161027Z

6. NOERMANLI SAID THAT GOI DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (HANKAM) WAS ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN FORMULATION OF GOI'S POLICY ON ASEAN AND SOMEWHATE RELUCTANTLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HANKAM HAD BEEN GENERROULSY REPRESENTED ON RECENT GOI DELEGATIONS TO ASEAN MEETINGS. HOWEVER, DESPIT SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED, HE DID NOT COMMENT ON GOI'S HOPES FOR GREATER CONSIDERATION OF SECURITY MATTERS IN ASEAN FORUMS. HE CONFIRMED GOI'S CONTINUING CONCERN OVER MALAYSIAN INTERNAL

SECURITY AND MENTIONED THT INDONESIA WAS ALSO WORRIED THAT RECENT THAI-LAO CLASHES MIGHT PRESAGE HANOI-SPONSORED ATTEMPT TO STEP UP COMMUNIST INSURGENCY IN THAILAND.

7. SELECTION OF ASEAN SECRETARY GENERAL STILL UNRESOLVED. IN RESPONSE TO RECENT QUERY, ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES EXCEPT PHILIPPINES (WHICH AHD NOT REPLIED) HAD AGAIN STATAED THAT THEY FAVORED INDONESIAN AS FIRST SEC GEN. NOERMANLI SAID THAT IF AGREEMENT WERE FINALLY REACHED ON THIS MATTER, GOI, IN LINE WITH UNDERSTANDING REACHED BY SINGAPORE PM LEE AND SUHARTO IN RECENT MEETING IN BALI, HAD IN MIND NOMINATING A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL (PROBABLY AN ACTIVE OR FORMER CABINET MINISTER) FOR THE JOB. THIS IN TURN WOULD IMPLY LARGER AND MORE ELABORATE SECRETARIAT THAN HAD BEEN CONCEIVED OF IN RECENT MEETINGS OF SENIOR OFFICIALS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART15399
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750436-0863
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751236/aaaabfuh.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDONESIAN VIEWS ON ASEAN
TAGS: PFOR, ID, ASEAN, (AMAN, NOERMANLI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006